

McNamara Declaration

Exhibit 168

Internet Archive Blogs

A blog from the team at archive.org



The Internet's Library
for 25 years



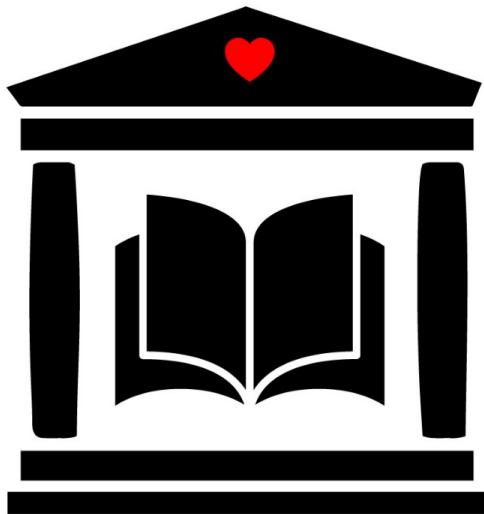
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Announcing a National Emergency Library to Provide Digitized Books to Students and the Public

Posted on March 24, 2020 by [chrisfreeland](#)



National Emergency Library Archive.org/NEL

To address our unprecedented global and immediate need for access to reading and research materials, as of today, March 24, 2020, the Internet Archive will suspend waitlists for the 1.4 million (and growing) books in our lending library by creating a [National Emergency Library](#) to serve the nation's displaced learners. This suspension will run through June 30, 2020, or the end of the US national emergency, whichever is later.

During the waitlist suspension, users will be able to borrow books from the [National Emergency Library](#) without joining a waitlist, ensuring that students will have access to assigned readings and library materials that the Internet Archive has digitized for the remainder of the US academic calendar, and that people who cannot physically access their local libraries because of closure or self-quarantine can continue to read and thrive during this time of crisis, keeping themselves and others safe.

This library brings together all the books from [Phillips Academy Andover](#) and [Marygrove College](#), and much of [Trent University's](#) collections, along with over a million other books donated from other libraries to readers worldwide that are locked out of their libraries.



Recent Posts

- [Building a Better Internet: Internet Archive Convenes DC Workshop](#)
- [July Book Talk: The Library: A Fragile History](#)
- [Save our Safe Harbor, continued: Internet Archive Supports Libraries and Nonprofits in Submission to the Copyright Office](#)
- [June Book Talk: The Catalogue of Shipwrecked Books](#)
- [GITCOIN Grants: Donate a Few Tokens, Defend a Public Treasure](#)

Recent Comments

- [Superman](#) on [July Book Talk: The Library: A Fragile History](#)
- [aho](#) on [Building a Better Internet: Internet Archive Convenes DC Workshop](#)
- [Superman](#) on [Building a Better Internet: Internet Archive Convenes DC Workshop](#)
- [Superman](#) on [Building a Better Internet: Internet Archive Convenes DC Workshop](#)
- [Patrick Winn](#) on [Building a Better Internet: Internet Archive Convenes DC Workshop](#)

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This is a response to the scores of inquiries from educators about the capacity of our lending system and the scale needed to meet classroom demands because of the closures. Working with librarians in the Boston area, led by Tom Blake of Boston Public Library, who gathered course reserves and reading lists from college and school libraries, we determined which of those books the Internet Archive had already digitized. Through that work we quickly realized that our lending library wasn't going to scale to meet the needs of a global community of displaced learners. To make a real difference for the nation and the world, we would have to take a bigger step.

"The library system, because of our national emergency, is coming to aid those that are forced to learn at home," said Brewster Kahle, Digital Librarian of the Internet Archive. "This was our dream for the original Internet coming to life: the Library at everyone's fingertips."

[Public support](#) for this emergency measure has come from over 100 individuals, libraries and universities across the world, including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). "Ubiquitous access to open digital content has long been an important goal for MIT and MIT Libraries. Learning and research depend on it," said Chris Bourg, Director of MIT Libraries. "In a global pandemic, robust digital lending options are key to a library's ability to care for staff and the community, by allowing all of us to work remotely and maintain the recommended social distancing."

We understand that we're not going to be able to meet everyone's needs; our collection, at 1.4 million modern books, is a fraction of the size of a large metropolitan library system or a great academic library. The books that we've digitized have been acquired with a focus on materials published during the 20th century, the vast majority of which do not have a commercially available ebook. This means that while readers and students are able to access latest best sellers and popular titles through services like OverDrive and Hoopla, they don't have access to the books that only exist in paper, sitting inaccessible on their library shelves. That's where our collection fits in—we offer digital access to books, many of which are otherwise unavailable to the public while our schools and libraries are closed. In addition to the [National Emergency Library](#), the Internet Archive also offers free public access to 2.5 million fully downloadable public domain books, which do not require waitlists to view.

We recognize that authors and publishers are going to be impacted by this global pandemic as well. We encourage all readers who are in a position to buy books to do so, ideally while also supporting your local bookstore. If they don't have the book you need, then Amazon or [Better World Books](#) may have copies in print or digital formats. We hope that authors will support our effort to ensure temporary access to their work in this time of crisis. We are empowering authors to explicitly opt in and donate books to the National Emergency Library if we don't have a copy. We are also making it easy for authors to contact us to take a book out of the library. [Learn more in our FAQ](#).

A final note on calling this a "National Emergency" Library. We lend to the world, including these books. We chose that language deliberately because we are pegging the suspension of the waitlists to the duration of the US national emergency. Users all over the world have equal access to the books now available, regardless of their location.

How you can help:

1. Read books, recommend books, and teach using books from the [National Emergency Library](#)
2. [Sponsor a book](#) to be digitized and preserved
3. [Endorse this effort](#) institutionally or individually
4. Share news about the [National Emergency Library](#) with your social media followers using #NationalEmergencyLibrary

If you have additional questions, please [check out our FAQ](#) or contact [Chris Freeland](#), Director of Open Libraries.

Update 3/30: To read our latest announcement about the National Emergency Library, please read our post [Internet Archive responds: Why we released the National Emergency Library](#).

Posted in [Announcements](#), [News](#) | Tagged [NEL](#) | [76 Replies](#)



About chrisfreeland

Chris Freeland is the Director of Open Libraries at Internet Archive.

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[← Love, Loss, and Archives](#)[Internet Archive Staff and Covid-19: Work-at-](#)[Home for Most, Full-Pay Furlough & Medical for](#)[Scanners →](#)**76 thoughts on “Announcing a National Emergency Library to Provide Digitized Books to Students and the Public”**Pingback: [1,426,434 Million Books: The Internet Archive Launches a “National Emergency Library to Provide Digitized Books to Students and the Public” | LJ infoDOCKET](#)**Stephanie T.**

March 24, 2020 at 4:58 pm

Chris Freeland, you are an angel on earth.

Pingback: [Announcement: Announcing a National Emergency Library to Provide Digitized Books](#)Pingback: [National Emergency Library | digithek blog](#)**chrisfreeland** Post author

March 24, 2020 at 5:46 pm

Many thanks for your kind words, Stephanie, but no, I'm just a librarian.

**Kathy**

March 24, 2020 at 7:52 pm

No such thing,Sir,as JUST a librarian! Two of my very best friends are reference librarians♥

**Hank Bromley**

March 24, 2020 at 7:57 pm

Chris, I think that's actually about the same thing!

**Mary Augusta**

March 26, 2020 at 1:52 pm

Chris

That has to be one of the best comments around. Thank you and the IA for this offering. IA, BHL, and ther digital libraries are more important now than ever before.

**Mark Templeton**

March 28, 2020 at 3:30 pm

not all heroes wear capes.

Pingback: [Archive.org ofrece acceso gratis y libre a 1,4 millones de libros \(casi 10.000 de ellos en español\) | VIRTUALGEEKS](#)Pingback: [Archive.org it offers free access and free to 1.4 million books \(nearly 10,000 of them in Spanish\) - MeTimeTech](#)**Stephanie Willen Brown**

March 24, 2020 at 6:57 pm

So, librarian to librarian, is this unlimited simultaneous users? Y'all have digitized a book that one of my faculty wants his students to read (by tomorrow! when they will virtually meet the author!). Author and professor will be thrilled.



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<http://blog.archive.org/2020/03/24/announcing-a-national-emergency-library-to-provide-digitized-books-to-students-and-the-public/>



chrisfreeland Post author

March 24, 2020 at 9:03 pm

Stephanie – Yes, for the duration of our waitlist suspension!

Pingback: [Archive.org ofrece acceso gratis y libre a 1,4 millones de libros \(casi 10.000 de ellos en español\) - Tec Ofertas España](#)

Pingback: [Ceo Bolivia](#)

Pingback: [Internet Archive opens National Emergency Library for shut-in students, commercial vendors agree - World Tech Valley](#)



behta

March 24, 2020 at 9:50 pm

This is great for the students you study



Cinda van Lierop

March 24, 2020 at 10:17 pm

This is a wonderful idea and service to the public.

Many thanks!

Pingback: [نهاد «آر-شيو إنترنت» يأهليت... | مسلسله](#)



Ginger

March 24, 2020 at 11:18 pm

Thank you so much!



ابران نوا

March 25, 2020 at 12:06 pm

Many thanks for your kind words, Stephanie, but no, I'm just a librarian.



Tucker Taylor

March 25, 2020 at 1:33 pm

I've already filled 2 requests for our faculty and I haven't even gone through the entire list!



آهنج جدید

March 25, 2020 at 3:14 pm

This is a wonderful idea and service to the public.



Linda Allcorn

March 25, 2020 at 6:08 pm

Please advise of the process a public library will follow to make The National Emergency Library available to our library patrons.

Thank you of sharing this great idea!



chrisfreeland Post author

March 25, 2020 at 7:56 pm

Hi Linda – The books are available to your patrons now. You can direct users to the National Emergency Library at <https://archive.org/details/nationalemergencylibrary> where they can search for books or authors using our "Search the collection" box along the left of the screen. Users can check out up to 10 books at a time with our waitlists are suspended.

Pingback: [You Can Now Access 1.4 Million Books for Free Thanks to the Internet Archive – MaryPoter](#)

Pingback: [You Can Now Access 1.4 Million Books for Free Thanks to the Internet Archive](#)



Lucie Comeau

March 25, 2020 at 8:08 pm

Hi, is this available worldwide ? Would love to share this with our university students in Canada.



chrisfreeland Post author

March 25, 2020 at 8:49 pm

Hi Lucie – Yes, our books are available equally to all users, regardless of where they are located. Please do share with your university students in Canada!

Pingback: [Internet Archive ofrece gratis 1,4 millones de libros al suspender las listas de espera para sus copias digitales - Tenemos Noticias](#)

Pingback: [You Can Now Access 1.4 Million Books for Free Thanks to the Internet Archive – Shirley Coyle](#)

Pingback: [Internet Archive ofrece gratis 1,4 millones de libros al suspender las listas de espera para sus copias digitales | ReportateRD](#)



Ellen

March 25, 2020 at 11:13 pm

Could you help me understand why this is something you can do now but not all of the time?
Are normal copyright rules being suspended?



Nemo

March 29, 2020 at 8:53 am

Ellen, because copyright in the USA is limited by the Progress Clause in the Constitution and “fair use” is a flexible concept which adapts to circumstances. See also <https://kylecourtney.com/2020/03/11/covid-19-copyright-library-superpowers-part-i/> on the topic.

Pingback: [You Can Now Access 1.4 Million Books for Free Thanks to the Internet Archive – Thinking Port](#)

Pingback: [Internet Archive ofrece gratis 1,4 millones de libros al suspender las listas de espera para sus copias digitales - Diario Espana](#)



John Gilmore

March 26, 2020 at 12:23 am

Thank you for supporting students with this expansion of access to already-digitized books.

I tried to read your FAQ but it sends me to Google. It won't even display for me because I refuse to let Google run Javascript in my browser, since that's part of how they spy on everybody for their own profit.

Surely there is a place on the Internet Archive where you can publish your own FAQ. Friends don't send friends to Google!



Nemo

March 29, 2020 at 8:56 am

Indeed it's strange to see such documents on Google Docs. I'm not 100% sure but I think the txt download link works without JavaScript nor cookies:
<https://docs.google.com/document/export?>

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<http://blog.archive.org/2020/03/24/announcing-a-national-emergency-library-to-provide-digitized-books-to-students-and-the-public/>

format=txt&id=1QjErbouWG7pUlxzPcRk4YEtbYs8ItlVTgLa1DfGh68&includes_info_params=true

**Ellie Kesselman**

March 30, 2020 at 6:47 pm

Yes, that link works by providing a directly downloadable text file of the Internet Archive FAQ. No JavaScript or cookies is necessary, and Google Docs can be entirely avoided. Thank you!

**AJCV**

March 26, 2020 at 12:45 am

Thank you so much!

**derek**

March 26, 2020 at 12:50 am

We need libraries with physical books as well to be prioritized as essential services.

Pingback: Internet Archive ofrece gratis 1,4 millones de libros al suspender las listas de espera para sus copias digitales

**Gardner Campbell**

March 26, 2020 at 1:07 am

You are a scholar and a gentleman. And I heart the Internet Archive. You folks are amazing, through and through. Thank you.

**Ing Sian**

March 26, 2020 at 1:10 am

Thank you so much.

Pingback: Internet Archive ofrece gratis 1,4 millones de libros al suspender las listas de espera para sus copias digitales - > ingenis

**Diane Gould Hall**

March 26, 2020 at 2:25 am

This is fantastic! Thank you for doing this. I am a regular supporter of your site and love the books I have access to. So helpful! May the Lord protect all of us during this situation.

**Uday Modak**

March 26, 2020 at 2:50 am

I have no words to express my whole hearted gratitude to you LIBRARIAN THE GREAT ! The readers around the world will be thrilled reading this anouncement ! We are all highly obliged ! Hope every and all the librarians around the world follow this example !

**DK Fynn**

March 26, 2020 at 4:53 am

This is really great to hear. I know that authors and publishers have to make money, but that said, I do hope that they take steps to make their content more easily available to those who really need them.

One idea that comes to mind—and I'm not sure if it's been done—is a temporary lifting of exclusive copyright, or maybe something can be done with Creative Commons. Maybe something can be done via ebook readers (like Kindle) where a book can be downloaded for free for a given period of time, then after such time, the book goes back to paid status. I think that would be a nice negotiation between authors, publishers, and readers.

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S.M.

March 26, 2020 at 4:55 am

My waitlist is now empty and ALL of the books I have been patiently waiting for many weeks (some for months) have vanished, with no way to ever know exactly which titles I had been waiting for. Never thought that waitlist was just going to disappear without any advance notice. I can recall some of the titles that were on my waitlist, but some have been on for so long I can not recall their exact title. Hopefully you can look into this & figure out a way to either email us listing of books that WERE on our waitlists so we can now go download them all, or you could automatically "checkout" them out to our accounts & then email us that they are sitting there waiting for us.



Nemo

March 29, 2020 at 8:57 am

S.M., have you checked your email, including the spam folder? I got email notifications for the books I had in my waitlist, if I'm not mistaken.



Marian B.

March 26, 2020 at 5:29 am

What a great gesture, thank you very much, Chris Freeland.
I'll share this with the elderly women I know, who use internet.
Also, for myself, I'm enjoying reading books much, at archive.org
It's an excellent source of many goodies and documentaries for me,
since about a decade. I'm Dutch and most other Dutchies I know
have no idea about archive.org being such a treasure box library.
Much appreciated, I realize how much work and time goes into it.



Matthew faerber

March 26, 2020 at 6:32 am

What do I need to do to download the books to my apple ipad



Nemo

March 29, 2020 at 8:59 am

Matthew, the easiest option is probably to just browse them online with any browser on your device which supports HTML and JavaScript. Otherwise you'll need some ebook reader which supports DRM (digital restrictions management).



Wolf

March 26, 2020 at 6:43 am

It is great to see that there are people everywhere who do the right thing at the right time.



Pinta A.

March 26, 2020 at 6:48 am

[quote]
Users can check out up to 10 books at a time with our waitlists are suspended.
[/quote]

I wanted to ask: When the waitlists come back into effect, will the last 5 books we've borrowed suddenly get returned? Or will they, instead, remain borrowed for whatever time they have left and *then* get returned?

(I ask because I am trying to adjust my reading habits accordingly.)



Janice Lindner

March 26, 2020 at 7:03 am

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Marvellous and generous gesture.
Thank you so much.



أهلاً وسهلاً

March 26, 2020 at 8:26 am

I've already filled 2 requests for our faculty and I haven't even gone through the entire list!



boualem

March 26, 2020 at 8:47 am

Thank you..



Raymond

March 26, 2020 at 9:15 am

I see you're a Deadhead.
Thanks for this.
Peace!



Albie

March 26, 2020 at 10:42 am

Greetings from Nantes in France,
great idea!! does these include audio books? and being in France I suppose there's limits on
what's available.
Meanwhile it's back to OTR.

Thanks for all your efforts over the years,

Albie



Marco De Antoni Ratti

March 26, 2020 at 11:04 am

It would be helpful to have such an emergency law being introduced in Italy.

I will try on my little possibilites to do that.

Thanks for your precious work.

Best regards

Marco De Antoni Ratti



Jess

March 26, 2020 at 12:21 pm

This is such a blessing! My middle school has been scrambling to figure out what to do about
classroom novels we currently don't have access to, and so far all of them are up here! THANK
YOU!

I have a question though—Since a login is required to access them, could we make sort of a
generic school or class login? Some districts might not be super on board with making each
student create their own, especially if the students don't all have their own school email
address.

and once again, THANK YOU SO MUCH



The Librarian S

March 27, 2020 at 5:57 pm

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I have the same question as Jess about whether there is a way to offer students access without requiring them to create accounts using email addresses or other personally identifiable information, since our district will also probably not allow this. If there is any possibility of using a generic school/class login or other workaround you can recommend (might it be acceptable for a teacher to temporarily share a download file with students on the condition that it be destroyed at the end of the loan period?) that would be a game changer. Thank you for any advice and for your work here. Books save lives, now more than ever.

**Nemo**

March 29, 2020 at 9:05 am

So, to be clear, your school doesn't make students register accounts anywhere else? No accounts ever required on Google, Office365, Facebook, WhatsApp or any other spying corporation, for anything the school or teachers organise? If so, great!

Internet Archive is infinitely more privacy conscious than the services where most schools send students nowadays, but it's good to be extra careful. For instance you could set up an email address on whatever provider which supports email aliases and register each student with nondescript usernames like "MySchoolName_001" at address+001@example.org. This is what we sometimes do at Wikimedia Italia for students registering on Wikimedia wikis.

**Kristin Patrick**

March 26, 2020 at 2:57 pm

Hello! This is wonderful news. Thank you very much. I notice that account setup requires email verification. Our students can't receive email from domains outside of our school district. Are there any potentials workarounds? Thank you in advance for any help you can provide.

**Roberto Garcia Torres**

March 26, 2020 at 3:23 pm

Thanks a lot !

**Meghan McCarthy**

March 26, 2020 at 9:46 pm

Author/illustrator here. I want to help out BUT I rely on school visits to make an income. Those have been cancelled. My other source of income is royalties from my books. If all of my books are now free for all online this could have a big impact on whatever income I have left. Not all authors are rich! Last year I qualified for food stamps (not an exaggeration). Please think of us during this time period as well.

**chrisfreeland** Post author

March 27, 2020 at 2:39 am

Meghan – We understand that authors and creators are being impacted during this crisis, which is why we've made a streamlined way for authors to opt out from having their books in the National Emergency Library. You can read more in our FAQs, linked above.

**Sarah**

March 26, 2020 at 11:12 pm

Are any of the digital materials audiobooks for those who are blind and visually impaired?

**Lori Guidis**

March 26, 2020 at 11:55 pm

Yipeeeee!!!!

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I am not happy about the circumstances– Covid 19, but I am ecstatic that you are opening wider and wider!!!

Love to you all,

Lori



Laura

March 27, 2020 at 2:06 am

Are you doing this with books currently under copyright? Have you cleared it with the copyright holders? While we're all for making books available in times of crisis, it seems unfair to include writers without their knowledge and consent.



ابران نوا

March 27, 2020 at 2:49 pm

Thank you for doing this. I am a regular supporter of your site and love the books I have access to. So helpful! May the Lord protect all of us during this situation.



أحمد

March 27, 2020 at 6:08 pm

Thanks for all your efforts over the years,



Mark Templeton

March 28, 2020 at 3:42 pm

amazingly supportive and generous action. a lot of students rely on shared books and library holds for class reserves and that's not possible these days.

is there any chance you have more recent editions of texts to be added? i need the 8th ed. of something, Readings in Social Psychology by Lesko and you have a much earlier ed. and the articles have changed.



Dave Gordon

March 28, 2020 at 3:46 pm

This is a huge step for society and how we use technology, not to mention one of many small, positive changes that are taking place during these unpredictable circumstances. Thank you for doing all you can to help us care for one another-



ابران نوا

March 29, 2020 at 10:14 am

It would be helpful to have such an emergency law being introduced in Italy

Comments are closed.